

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 64

June 2017

No. 6



Calendar

Fri., May 19	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at Penn Place lobby	Sun., June 11	Garrett Park Spring Fling, Town Hall, 2–4 pm (see p 3)
Sat., May 20	GIVES collection, Farmer's Market, 9–12 pm; Plant swap: basketball courts, 10 am; Progressive Dinner, evening	Mon., June 12	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Mon., May 22	New exhibit, Penn Place Gallery, Farhad Heidarian, paintings, till June 17 (see p 3)	Tues., June 13	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm (last one until September); deadline to get summer jobs list names to Town Office (see p 6)
Sat., May 27	GPJams Coffeehouse, 7:30 pm, free	Wed., June 14	<i>Bugle</i> deadline for the July issue: Deadline for summer calendar dates and names of graduates (see p 2)
Sun., May 28	Art at Penn Place, Meet-the-Artist reception, Farhad Heidarian, Penn Place Gallery, 3–5 pm (p 3)	Thurs., June 15	GPJams, Town Hall, 8 pm
Mon., May 29	Memorial Day; no trash collection, Town Office closed	Fri., June 16	Film Society, <i>Chef</i> , Town Hall; dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm (see p 2)
Thurs., June 1	GP Jams, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sat., June 17	GIVES collection, Farmer's Market, 9–12 pm
Sat., June 3	GIVES collection, PO lobby, 9 am–12 pm	Fri., June 23	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at the PO lobby
Sun., June 4	Betty Baldwin memorial, 2 pm, Town Hall (see obituary, p 6)	Sat., June 24	Large item pickup; Town Council organizational meeting, Town Office, 9 am–1 pm
Mon., June 5	Town Hall carpet installation (tentative)	Mon., June 26	New exhibit, Penn Place Gallery, Garrett Park photographer Vickie Baily, photographs: "Two Gardens and a Gate" (see p 3); street sweeping (see p 3)
Sat., June 10	Citizens Association wine tasting, Town Hall, 7:30–10:30 pm		

Looking Ahead

Your cub reporter was asked to cover the Town Council meeting again. I am not sure why, since the possibility that economists actually do know how to write well seems remote. In any case, the May 8 meeting began with the Mayor congratulating the two reelected members (Phil Schulp and Joanna Welch) and the newly elected member (Stephen Paczkowski). The rest of the meeting consisted of two citizen presentations to the Council, brief discussion of timing for the Council's annual retreat, and the Town Manager's report.

Liz King reported on the status of the Walter Johnson cluster planning. Your reporter confesses that since the last of his own children completed high school 15 years ago, he has not paid much attention to school issues. Liz thanked the Council for the recent statement sent to the county government expressing views on school expansion. She also noted that County Council will hold a meeting on June 13 to discuss school planning. One concern is whether the creation/expansion of school capacity will be closely synchronized with expected school enrollments, especially as White

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Flint undergoes its reincarnation as a residential/commercial community.

The second presentation was by Steph Hooton, who requested that the Council consider lowering the speed limit on Oxford to 10 miles per hour, citing personal experiences with dangerous speeding cars while walking in the road. Mayor Benjamin noted that the Council will take up a host of sidewalk/road issues in the near future and will fold her request into that discussion.

Every year the Town Council holds a retreat to consider possible upcoming issues, review ongoing projects, and make assignments of areas of responsibility for individual council members. No decision on dates for this meeting was made, but subsequently the members agreed on June 24 as the date for the retreat. Do not worry, taxpayers; this retreat will be held in the Town Offices at Penn Place, and not at a glitzy hotel in Las Vegas.

The final item for the evening was the Town Manager's report. Gene Swearingen began by noting that town finances continue to be in good shape (although there is a bit of uncertainty concerning the amount of tax revenue the town will receive in the final months of the fiscal year). The town is getting bids on repair of existing sidewalks, and the work will proceed over the summer (note that this work involves existing sidewalks, not the planned sidewalk for Oxford). Some discussion ensued concerning whether or how upcoming work could be highlighted on the town's new Web site so that town residents would know what is planned. Gene also noted that more tree work than usual was occurring this spring (trees are trimmed or removed according to the recommendation of the Town Arborist, Phil Normandy).

There being no other business for the evening, the meeting adjourned shortly after 8 pm. Efficiency reigned again.

Ed Lincoln

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GPFS Presents *Chef*, June 16

The Film Society's annual "foodie" movie, *Chef* (USA, 2014, rated R for language), will be shown June 16 at 8 pm in the Town Hall. The film stars Director Jon Favreau as a star chef who quits his restaurant job in a fit of passion when he feels stifled by conformity and rediscovers his creative energy in a food truck that he takes across country with his son and a former colleague. With cameo performances by Scarlett Johansson, Dustin Hoffman, Amy Sedaris, and Robert Downey, Jr., this is very much a feel-good film. It is free for GPFS members and is \$5 per person, \$10 per family for nonmembers.

While we aren't able to provide Cubanos, the signature dish in the film, we will do our best to stimulate your appetite with a dinner that is yet to be determined. (Look for details on the garrettparkneighbors list and at the PO the week of June 11.) Dinner and drinks are served at 7. Dinner is priced at \$10 for members and possibly more for nonmembers depending on what is served. Water, soda, beer, and wine will be on offer at prices ranging from \$1 to \$5 for everyone.

Hope to see you all at this, the last film before our summer break. We return in September.

Call for Dates, Graduates

No, not graduates wanting to go on dates—we're calling for names of graduating students, as well as dates of events taking place during the summer. These are to be included in the July *Bugle*, which comes out June 23.

There is no *Bugle* in the summer: the next one, dated October (under a new editorial staff), will come out in late September. So any summer dates you want to publicize should be submitted for the July *Bugle* by the deadline of June 14.

In addition, if you would like to recognize students in your family who are graduating from high school, college, or graduate school, please send information to the *Bugle* at gp.bugle.editor@gmail.com: we will include name, institution graduated from, degree received, any honors, and plans for the future. Thanks!

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$25 per family or \$15 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by e-mail, mail, or hand to *Bugle* staff. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Manager Notes

Town elections. Congratulations to Councilmembers Joanna Welch and Phil Schulp on their re-election and to the town's newest Councilmember, Stephen Paczkowski. Many thanks for the fine work of Chief Election Judge Suzanne Grefsheim and Judges Louise Stomierowski and Cliff Tarpy. Special thanks go to Elizabeth Henley, who organized and managed the election.

Strathmore Avenue maintenance. The State Highway Administration has completed the resurfacing of Strathmore. However, items remain to be completed: improving handicapped ramps at intersections, painting crosswalks, repairing damaged sidewalk sections at driveway entrances, and, of course, finishing the striping of the center of the road. SHA has not provided a definite schedule for completing the work, but it is likely that the work will be carried out over the next few months. The town will provide updates on the Web site as we have them.

More sidewalk information. The town is planning sidewalk repair work around the Penn Place building in June. The cracked and damaged sections of sidewalk will be replaced. Again, look for status updates on the town Web site.

Street sweeping. Town streets will be swept on Monday, June 26, with a rain date of Tuesday, June 27. Remember to park off the street to allow the sweepers to clean from curb to curb.

Town Office. The Town Office will be closed for the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 29. As always: If you have questions or concerns, please call me at 301-933-7488.

Gene Swearingen, Town Manager

Garrett Park Spring Fling!

The Neighbors Helping Neighbors Committee invites *all* Garrett Park residents to the Spring Fling, a celebration honoring those in our community who are 70 years young and over. Come join us for music, refreshments, and cake, and learn about community resources. Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 11, 2 to 4 pm at the Town Hall. Family and friends are welcome!



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Art at Penn Place

Beginning May 22, Garrett Park artist Farhad Heidarian's unique abstract paintings will be on exhibit in the gallery. Farhad began his fascination with art in his grandfather's painting studio. While attending painting and sculpture classes at Texas State University, Ohio State University, the Maryland Institute of Art in Baltimore, and the Corcoran College of Art and Design, Farhad was drawn to modern and abstract art, and became intrigued with the surreal quality and revolutionary ideas of New York Abstract Expressionism. Farhad's abstract paintings are colorful and expressive, and create metaphors to the mystery of life and the subconscious. His intent is to depict images beyond what appears to be. His paintings will exhibit from May 22 to June 17, and we hope you will join us for his Meet-the-Artist reception on May 28 from 3 to 5 pm.

Please note that the gallery will be dark from June 18 to 24 so that it can be spruced up for our next series of artists.

When the gallery reopens on June 26, Garrett Park photographer Vickie Baily will fill the gallery with a beautiful exhibit entitled "Two Gardens and a Gate." See next month's *Bugle* for the heart-warming story that inspired her show.

Special thanks to Dana Laake, who recently made a surprise donation in support of the annual Youth Art Workshop Program at the gallery. This program encourages young artists in our community to explore their creativity and become familiar with a fun gallery experience... another example of our volunteer commitment to "Artists helping Artists." Thank you so much, Dana!

Are you a Garrett Park artist who would like more information about Penn Place Gallery? If so, get in touch with Vickie Baily at vbaily@mac.com or Suzi Gifford at swgiff@comcast.net for more information.

If you haven't yet "friended" Art at Penn Place on Facebook, please do! Get a sneak peek at our upcoming shows, enjoy photos of our gallery events, and keep up with the accomplishments of our Garrett Park artists!

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Citizens Association Notes

The usual stalwart group of neighbors attended this year's Candidates Forum. It was a great opportunity to participate in our community at the local level. Questions during the first half of the forum covered topics like what to do about the needed repairs for the Town Hall, how to best utilize town resources/talent/capital, and the candidates' opinions on school overcrowding. The second half of the meeting evolved into a discussion of how we can foster community spirit and involvement, and preserve the unique culture of Garrett Park. The discussion was a little more free-form than the usual town forum, but it was what the folks in attendance were obviously passionate about.

The lack of new faces at this year's forum got me to thinking about what might prevent people from getting involved in the town's political, social, and philanthropic events. I know that my own reasons run the gamut from being genuinely busy to unabashedly lazy. I'm a data-driven person so I asked around by e-mail about what stops other folks from coming out, and I got almost as many different answers as people. Common themes included the obvious, like being busy, forgetting, and kids. Interestingly, we also found out that the forum was not posted on the online town calendar (growing pains). I also discovered that most of the folks with bedtime routines to tend to wouldn't have been able to take advantage of babysitters. Thanks to everyone who responded! We will keep working to get the word out about events, and we are always open to suggestions for making them more accessible.

Speaking of events...

Attention wine lovers! The CA is hosting a wine tasting event on Saturday, June 10, from 7:30 to 10:30 pm. Bring your favorite bottle of wine and come and socialize with your neighbors. You don't have to be an oenophile to attend; this event is for everyone! Cheese and other nibbles will be provided. Suggested donation is \$5 per person. Please RSVP by e-mail to Darshini Trivedi.

Please also consider volunteering for this event. We need your help with setup/cleanup

as well as pouring wine. Further details will be forthcoming.

Future meetings. Do you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please forward your thoughts to Darshini Trivedi or send a note to Box 456.

Annual dues. The Citizens Association 2017 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$15 for individuals and \$25 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

Garrett Park listserv. Our neighborhood is made up of people with a wide variety of backgrounds, skills, perspectives, and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv. The listserv is an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services (for example, contractors, lawn care, doctors, and babysitters). The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Darshini Trivedi.

Sean Conlan, CA Secretary

Greening Report

This month's green banner is sponsored by Lisa Kaeser and Bill Schmidt. Many thanks!

If anyone else would like to support the Citizens Association with contributions of any kind, including dues (\$25 per family or \$15 per individual per address), please make out a check to the Citizens Association with a note in the memo line explaining what it is for, and mail it to the Citizens Association at Box 456. We'd be most grateful.

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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

♪ Jeremy Lichtenstein and Kids In Need Distributors (KIND) recently received two awards from Montgomery County. The first is a Montgomery Serves Award for individual contributions to Montgomery County in 2016, presented by the county on April 24. The other award is from the Montgomery County Board of Education. On May 4, KIND received the Distinguished Service to Public Education Award in the Community Group category. Congratulations to Jeremy and KIND!

♪ Retired *Bugle* reporter Mary Moyer tells us that having survived another stay in hospital and successful rehab at Carriage Hill (an establishment she recommends), she has been back home for a couple of months; she is ticking along while waiting for a liver transplant. She's preparing for the summer by having a sunporch put in behind her house, where she will be able to sit and enjoy whatever good weather we may get. Cross fingers!

Letter to the Editor

Demolition Policies

According to the *Bugle's* summary of the April Town Council meeting, the owners of the house at 10915 Kenilworth were seeking a demolition permit. I was bothered by the desire of some members of the Historic Preservation Committee, the Town Council, and even some attendees of the meeting to find a way to use the existing historic preservation laws to deny the permit. The committee "saw no grounds on which it could oppose demolition." A Councilmember "noted sadly that the Town Council has only an advisory role in such cases." A resident suggested that the definition of historic properties should be extended to include mid-20th century homes, and "broad support for this general policy direction was voiced."

This house is one of thousands of similar 1960–1970 era two-story houses in the county. I toured it when it was for sale recently; there's nothing special about it. So why were people trying so hard to save it? I can think of three reasons. First, I think most Garrett Parkers don't want to live in a town full of giant, boxy McMansions. I don't either, but I don't think that means that no one should be able to knock down an unremarkable house and build something new. Second, some people might worry that the new house will be in a different style than nearby houses. I'd bet that when the Chevy houses started being built here, there was uproar that those tiny little houses didn't fit in with the exist-

ing Victorians, but we now revere and preserve them. Third, when a house is demolished, it's almost always replaced by something bigger and more expensive. Like many residents, I hope the town can find a way to maintain a diverse stock of houses so you don't have to be a millionaire to buy here. Given that desire, the demolition of existing houses is a real concern.

But I think that wishing you could find a way to twist and expand existing ordinances on the fly to effect an unwritten policy goal is extremely dangerous. Such a goal has not been through the process of gathering public input, being revised, and being voted on by the Town Council. I don't want to worry that when I approach the Town Council with a request that meets all written ordinances, they'll decide they just don't like what I'm asking permission to do, and they'll stop me by grasping a somewhat-related ordinance and expanding its meaning. If residents and the Town Council want to help maintain the diversity of our housing stock, great. Let's draft some policies, get public input, then pass ordinances. That way, people who are considering buying a house and replacing it can assess the likelihood of getting permission to do that, and minimize the risk that they'll spend a very large sum, then be told that their cookie-cutter 1970s house has been deemed "historic," and that they can't make significant changes to it.

Jim Cole

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~ Garrett Park resident ~



Science Rocks!

The Garrett Park Elementary School Science Fair was held on April 27. The gym and all-purpose room were filled with science fair projects. Each young scientist was interviewed by a “card carrying scientist” and received a certificate plus a bag of fossils. Fourth grader Ava Posin won the annual science fair logo contest.



Summer Jobs List

Elizabeth Henley in the Town Office is compiling a summer jobs list for the July *Bugle*. Those offering to do summer chores should e-mail or call her at the Town Office (adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov, 301-933-7488) with their names, ages, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and jobs they can do (babysitting, yard work, etc). Please get the information in no later than June 13.

Elizabeth also maintains the list in the Town Office, so if your name doesn't make it into the *Bugle*, you can still contact her to be added.

Obituary

Elizabeth Rush Buell Baldwin

Elizabeth “Betty” Baldwin, longtime community activist and resident of Garrett Park, died peacefully after a brief illness on March 16. She was 92.

Betty was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on April 25, 1924, the eldest of two daughters, to Herbert J. Buell and Georgia Rush Henry Buell. A tomboy at heart, she spent much of her youth growing up on her uncle's farm. Betty graduated from Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio, in 1946 with a degree in sociology. She continued graduate work in sociology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where she met and married her husband of 66 years in 1951, Calvin “Cal” B. Baldwin, Jr.

Betty was an attentive and loving mother. She instilled her can-do resourcefulness in all three daughters, teaching them to sew, bake, ice skate, and ride horses. She presided over her home on Weymouth Street abuzz with projects for her daughters and a regular flow of neighborhood children.

A committed liberal and Democrat, she supported many political causes, and took her daughters to rallies such as the Poor Peoples March on Washington in 1968. She attended her last political march on her 80th birthday in 2004, when she went to the March for Women's Lives, accompanied by her daughter Sally.

The family took a number of cross-country trips in the United States and Canada and, in 1966, she and her friend, Becky Williams (Otter), packed six children into a Ford Econoline camper bound for Oaxaca, Mexico.

She maintained her love of travel throughout her life, hiking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu at 60. In their retirement years, she and Cal traveled extensively, on their own and with Elderhostel and other educational programs.

Always “Betty” to her family, friends, and colleagues in the many community organizations for which she volunteered, she was known and celebrated as someone passionately devoted to bettering society.

She joined the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County in 1954 and was awarded an Honorary Life membership for over 50 years as an active member. From 1967 to 1970 she was a member of the newly formed Montgomery County Human Relations Commission, serving as vice-chairperson and chair of the Education and Community Relations Committee. She also worked for 15 years for the Montgomery County Public Schools Head Start program as coordinator of volunteer services and as parent involvement coordinator.

In November 1989, the Community Action Agency (CAA), a liaison between low-income residents and the county, selected Betty to receive the Henry L. Dixon Jr. Award for outstanding community service. In 1990, the CAA honored her as volunteer of the year.

Throughout her life, Betty loved to bird watch, garden, read, and spend time with family and friends in Bethany Beach, Delaware, and Capon Springs, West Virginia. In recent years, she also became interested in genealogy and researching her family history. She and her husband were long-time members of the Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church.

Betty is survived by her husband Calvin Baldwin of Garrett Park; daughter Susan Baldwin of San Diego, California, and her daughter Elizabeth “Lizzie” Hall; daughter Sally Baldwin of Washington, D.C., her husband Desson Thomson and their sons Alex, Adrian, and Andrew; and daughter Ann Baldwin Nucci of Rockville, her husband Patrick Nucci, and their son Jamie and daughter Katie. She also is survived by her sister Margaret “Peg” Tileston and husband Jules of Anchorage, Alaska, and three nieces, Nancy, Anna, and Gloria. We will all miss her greatly.

Donations may be made to the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Maryland Citizen Education Fund, at www.lwvmocomd.org or Kids in Need Distributors (KIND) at www.kindinmd.org.

Betty's family will hold a celebration of her life on June 4 at 2 pm at the Garrett Park Town Hall. For details, please contact bettybaldwingp@gmail.com.

Letter from the Mayor

I am impressed that five residents had the courage and fortitude to offer their services as Councilmembers in the past election. All five are to be congratulated for taking the risk of subjecting themselves to the judgment of their neighbors in the electoral process. With only three seats available, they knew that some of them had to lose, and an election can be brutal on one's ego and self-perception. Thank you for your willingness to take the risk. We are happy to have the two incumbents, Joanna Welch and Phil Schulp, continuing their service to the town, joined by Stephen Paczkowski, whose excellent qualifications make him a welcome addition.

They will immediately deal with significant legislative proposals. We have two areas in which our Charter, Ordinances, and practices differ, and in which the legislation is sometimes inconsistent or directly contradictory from one section to the next. There are some broader philosophical issues that need to be tackled, also. The two areas are (1) our electoral process and (2) the way we legislate, regulate, and enforce traffic and parking rules. I have written about both subjects previously in the *Bugle* (June 2016, July 2016, December 2016, and February 2017). We hope in the June Town Council meeting to introduce ordinances and act on resolutions that will enhance our approach to these activities.

In the election changes we will propose strengthening the concept that the Election Judges are the policy and decision makers for the process, that they must assure the integrity of the voting process and that the election is fair, honest, and an accurate representation of the votes cast. In the interests of encouraging all to vote, we will propose registration and the availability of absentee ballots up to and including the day of the election. Some language that discriminates against noncitizen residents will be proposed for elimina-

tion. We will suggest ways to support the ability for qualified voters to be poll watchers. We will propose lifting some of the time constraints on the counting process, will introduce the concept of announcing preliminary results, and allow more flexibility in the time for swearing in the winners. This will require both Charter and Ordinance modifications.

Establishing traffic control and parking restrictions has been clumsy, and the restrictions are essentially impossible to enforce. This has resulted in much resident frustration and complaints to the town. We will try to introduce more flexibility and efficiency while assuring adequate notice, review, and control of the process. We will propose to delegate many traffic control decisions to the Town Manager, subject to prior public notice and Council review. In emergencies, temporary controls could be put in place without the notice and review.

The Town Manager would have the ability to establish fines, also subject to public notice and Council review, and could in some cases have cars towed if they violate restrictions. The Town Manager and his designees would have the authority to enforce the regulations by issuing citations.

As soon as the proposals are in a form for review before the next Council meeting, we will post them on the town Web site and send out notification of their availability for perusal. We encourage you to register for the "residents only portal" of the Web site and to indicate the types of notices you want to receive. We welcome your participation in the discussion of the proposed changes and look forward to having better defined and more useful processes for carrying out our elections and for dealing with traffic and parking in town.

Peter Benjamin

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